

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	08/877,728	OKAWARA, HIROTO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LUONG T. NGUYEN	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 11/09/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-10,13-28,31-33,35-37,40-45,47-50 (renumbered as 1-41, respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 June 1997 and 22 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 13-28, 31-33, 35-37, 40-45, 47-50 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 14-28, 31-33, 35-37, 40-41, 48-50, see examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as indicated in Paper dated 08/09/2004.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest an image pickup apparatus having a camera body and a lens unit, comprising an operation switch that controls said menu function unit in accordance with an operation state thereof to display a predetermined menu on a display screen of said display means, operates on the predetermined menu displayed on said display means to select a desired setting item from among a plurality of items of the predetermined menu displayed on said display means by said menu function unit and sets a condition regarding the motion direction of the lens unit, in combination with other claim elements.

Claims 2-7, 9-10, 13 are allowable for the reasons given in claim 1.

Regarding claim 42, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest an image pickup apparatus comprising inhibition means for inhibiting said control means from starting the stop control for a predetermined period when said detection means detects a stop of rotation of said ring member to continue the motion control of said magnification lens group based on the detection of the rotation of the ring member, in combination with other claim elements.

Claim 43 is allowable for the reasons given in claim 42.

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Regarding claim 44, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest an image pickup apparatus comprising change means for changing a sensitivity of motion start control of said control means relative to a detection result of said detection means so that said control means does not start the motion start control until an amount of rotation of said ring member, corresponding to the sensitivity, is detected by said detection means, in combination with other claim elements.

Claims 45, 47 are allowable for the reasons given in claim 44.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600